

## Thoughts from the Councilmember...



If there is one thing our city needs for the new year, it's auditor independence. While everyone would likely agree that the city auditor needs to be free from external interference, how that is defined and ultimately accomplished remains open to debate.

It used to be that the mayor and council (together as the *legislative* branch of government) appointed and confirmed the appointment of the city auditor, but that changed under the strong mayor form of government. Now, the mayor (acting as the executive branch of government) appoints and the city council confirms the city auditor. The mayor can also fire the city auditor, but that decision can be appealed to the city council. In addition, the city auditor takes direction from and reports directly to the mayor or his designee.

It's a bad system that assures a lack of independence and directly conflicts with common sense and best practices. How can you honestly audit the person who not only appoints you but also has the power to fire you? According to Jay Poole, who is the national chair of the Association of Local Government Auditors, "to ensure this independence, the city auditor should be appointed by either the City Council or the audit committee, and not the mayor."

And little will change if the recommendation of the City Charter Review Committee (allowing the mayor to appoint the city auditor) is approved for placement on the June 2008 ballot.

One need only go back a year to see how this doesn't work. Last January, then city auditor, John Torell, issued his annual Internal Controls Report. The original Executive Summary had been changed from:

"... the City's internal controls over financial reporting, as of this report date, are *minimally adequate to assure timely and accurate preparation of the City's annual financial statements.*"

to

"The City's internal controls over financial reporting, as of this report date, *have improved to permit timely and accurate preparation of the City's annual financial statements.*"

This is a text book case of an external impairment - a practice discussed explicitly in the July 2007 *Government Auditing Standards*, commonly referred to as the "Yellow Book." The *Yellow Book* states in part that, "External impairments to independence occur when auditors are deterred from acting objectively and exercising professional skepticism by pressures, actual or perceived, from management and employees of the audited entity..."

I know there are those who believe that the city council participation in the selection of the auditor will somehow "mitigate" the independence issue, I disagree. Allowing the mayor to participate in the appointment of the city auditor, even with the participation of the city council and audit committee, muddies the already contaminated pool of city audits.

Is my recommendation that the city auditor be elected by the public. At the very least, neither the mayor nor any member of management should be involved in the selection of the auditor or the audit committee. The public can help by showing up and speaking at the city council meetings when this subject is addressed. The public can also send e-mails, letters, faxes and call the city council to express their views. You can also call five friends and ask them to do the same. Bottom line is we need public participation. If all else fails and this goes on the ballot (allowing the mayor to appoint the city auditor) the public should vote no.

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**Serving**

**Bay Ho**

**Bay Park**

**Birdland**

**De Anza**

**Clairemont**

**Kearny Mesa**

**Linda Vista**

**Mission Valley**

**Mission Bay Park**

**Mission Village**

**Morena**

**Serra Mesa**

## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



*January 13th*

*The third annual Soul Plates: Celebrities Dish Up Art event helped raise over \$15,000 to provide services for people living with HIV and AIDS. The event enables Being Alive San Diego to provide support groups, information, referrals, moving assistance, social and recreational activities, haircuts/hairstyling and many other programs. Donna has painted a plate each year. Her 2007 plate is pictured below on the right.*



*January 27th*

*Councilmember Frye joined San Diego River Park Foundation members, artist Julia C.R. Gray and dozens of volunteers to put the finishing touches on the Friars Road mural. The mural is part of the San Diego River Park Foundation's Community Enhancement Program, established to highlight the San Diego River Park and trail, provide more public access to the river and promote its rich history.*





## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



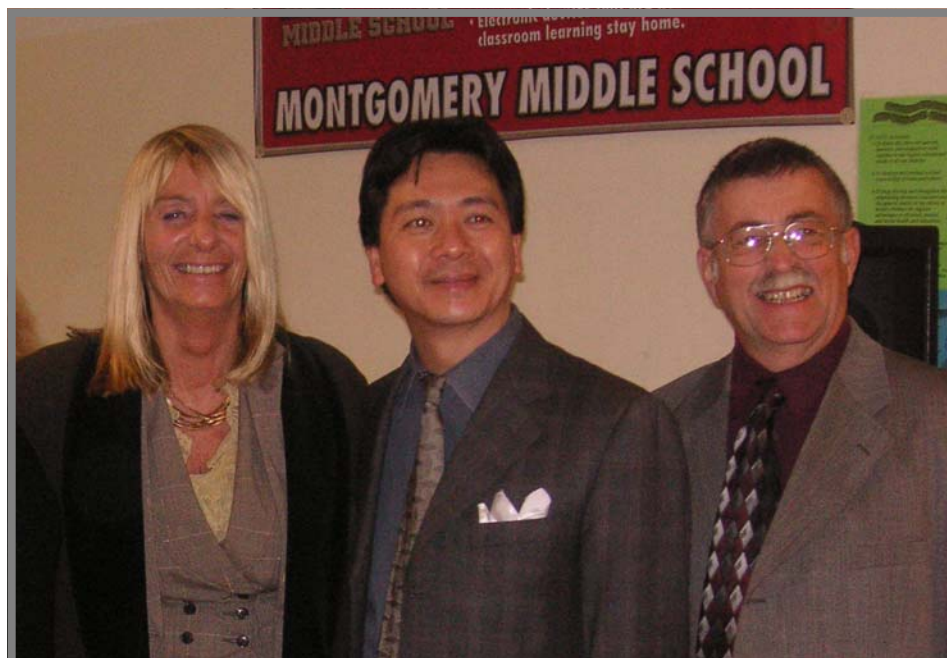
### February 10th

Councilmember Frye joined other elected officials in celebrating the "Tet Festival," the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. An eagerly anticipated holiday for the Vietnamese, the days are spent with families and friends in celebration of their cultural heritage and ancestry; and is filled with prayers for peace, health, happiness and prosperity. The event is hosted by the Vietnamese American Youth Alliance (VAYA), who have truly created an environment that accurately depicts Tet in Vietnam.



### February 28th

Councilmember Frye was pleased to join Youth Action Committee member, Grover Diemert (right) and Montgomery Middle School Principal, Jonathan Ton (center) for the opening of the middle school's "Door to Learning" center on campus. The program brings academic and social resources directly to the students and their families. Ton, Diemert and the Youth Action Committee dedicated countless hours toward making this resource a reality.



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## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



### March 3rd

Councilmember Frye and San Diego Medical Services Enterprise (SDMSE) held a District Six Public Safety Fair at Clairemont High School. The Public Safety Fair provided people with the opportunity to see emergency vehicles such as a police cruiser, fire engine and ambulances up close. Public safety officials were on hand to educate residents about the various programs, including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.



### March 9th

Steve Cushman was appointed to the San Diego Port Authority and Councilmember Frye was given the opportunity to swear in Mr. Cushman to his new post. The Port oversees two maritime cargo terminals, a cruise ship terminal, 16 public parks, various wildlife reserves and environmental initiatives.



### March 23rd

Councilmember Frye visited the home of Gail Russell, her grandson Mason (seen below), and their family, before Rebuilding Together San Diego renovated the family's home.

Rebuilding Together San Diego obtains funding from councilmembers to perform rehabilitation within their districts. Each year, during its annual April event, Rebuilding Together uses donors and volunteers to completely renovate homes city-wide.





## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



**April 17th**

In her signature fun-loving style, Councilmember Frye was on hand as a "Celebrity Scooper" for the annual Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day to benefit Canine Companions for Independence. Last year, Councilmember Frye and Ben & Jerry's helped raise over \$2,500 for Canine Companions.



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**April 28th**

Through a collaboration with the Clairemont Town Council, Pacific Waste Services and Councilmember Frye's office, the annual Clairemont Spring Cleanup was a success, with over 10 tons of refuse and unwanted materials collected! Dedicated community members come together each year to help make this event run smoothly.



**April 28th**

The 21st Annual Linda Vista Multicultural Fair was as successful as ever! With plenty of booths for local organizations, health screening, food, multicultural groups, dancing and a parade, this event fulfilled all the wishes of those who look forward to it each year. New this year was the Housing Tent, sponsored by Councilmember Frye.



## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



**May 11th**

*Councilmember Frye joined SeaWorld, San Diego River Park Foundation, American Forest and TruGreen LandCare to kick-off the planting of 50 Fremont Cottonwood trees along the San Diego River. The planting was part of the City's Community Forest Initiative and on-going effort to beautify the San Diego River.*



**May 18th**

*Councilmember Frye joined Ed Begley, Jr., actor and environmental activist, to spread the word about the 10-day Street Smart exhibit at the San Diego Automotive Museum. Street Smart did the legwork to provide residents with the convenience of viewing energy-efficient vehicles in one location! The exhibit provided residents a chance to compare and contrast performance metrics and overall functionality of today's wide array of alternative vehicles.*



**May 19th**

*San Diego River Days expands with events and participants each year! This year's River Days included bike rides, cleanups, nature and history walks, mountain hikes, neighborhood festivals and more! If you missed 2007's River Days, don't fret: the event will be back again this year.*



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## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



**June 15th**

Using a CDBG allocation from Councilmember Frye, the Linda Vista Civic Association provided funding to Kearny Educational Complex's School of Science, Connections and Technology, helping students and teachers upgrade their classrooms with new, state-of-the-art equipment. Kearny staff and LVCA members invited the Councilmember to class to show off the students' new equipment and skills!

**June 21st**

Councilmember Frye toured the newly created "Green Roof" in Kearny Mesa, made by Jim Mumford of Good Earth Plants. Green roof systems are an extension of the existing roof and involve high-quality landscaping and drainage systems to support lightweight plants. In many other countries, these technologies provide economic benefits, sound insulation, amenity space, improved aesthetics and food production.



**June 25th**

Several organizations came together to contribute to the vitality of our neighborhoods by planting community farms and gardens to improve the environment, decrease urban runoff and help reduce heat island effects. Community farms and gardens also benefit San Diego's diverse population by providing fresh, nutritious produce to residents of all socioeconomic statuses, ethnicities and ages.



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## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



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**July 5th** - In anticipation of the release of the final installment of the Harry Potter series of books, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," Councilmember Frye celebrated the arrival of the Harry Potter "Knight Bus" at the Mission Valley Library. The event featured numerous activities, such as tours of the "Knight Bus" for pre-selected fans, Harry Potter trivia games, Hogwarts bouncy castles, a magic show, face paintings and magic-inspired hat making.



### July 14th

In partnership with SDG&E, Councilmember Frye and staff visited Clairemont homes to offer SDG&E customers a chance to save money on their energy bills by simply signing up for the CARE program.

**July 21st** - The Mission Valley Branch Library celebrated its 5th Anniversary with a jazz concert, gift cards, a miniature boat race, raffles and free giveaways!





## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



**August 4th** - The 18th Annual Clairemont Family Day was packed with activities for all ages, including a Kiwanis sponsored pancake breakfast, classic car show, carnival rides, arts & crafts, local bands and numerous yummy food options provided by local vendors.



**August 10th**

Councilmember Frye and staff went out in the community to perform their own cleanup. Staff spent time cleaning portions of Mission Bay Park and Morena Blvd.



**August 15th**

The Twilight in the Park Summer Concert Series has offered free concerts to the community, mostly using small annual donations from the audience. Thanks to Councilmember Frye's efforts to get the ball rolling and funding from Councilmember Atkins, the two Councilmembers happily presented the Concert Committee with a check for \$1,500 to help expand this experience.



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## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



### September 4th

*The Balboa Avenue Citizens Advisory Committee is to be commended for their dedication and beautification efforts along the Balboa Avenue median.*

*Thanks to this group, new community identification signs and landscaping have made the drive more pleasing to the eye, and may potentially reduced speeds on this busy street.*



### September 15th

*SeaWorld held an electronic recycling event to help benefit SeaWorld and Busch Gardens' Conservation Fund. They invited residents citywide to bring computer monitors, televisions, cell phones, laptops and much more. Following a recently passed California Senate Bill 20 (SB20), these items are no longer allowed in city landfills.*



**September 22nd** - Councilmember Frye joined the Nile Sisters Development Initiative at a fundraising dinner to help the group further their mission of assisting refugee women and their families through education, training, and support to overcome barriers to social and economic self-reliance.





## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



**October 12th**

*The Fourth Annual Golden Caregiver Awards was held at the San Diego Wine & Culinary Center. This very special event featured a spectacular silent auction, three-course gourmet dinner and awards ceremony honoring our community's finest caregiving professionals, programs, services, employees and volunteers who work to improve the lives of San Diego County residents.*



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**October 20th**

*In honor of longtime advocate and friend to the parks, a ball field at the Clairemont Senior Athletic Fields was dedicated to memorialize Pete Stipp's dedication and hard work. Community members, friends and family joined to celebrate Pete's life.*



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## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



**November 14th** - Councilmember Frye was given the opportunity to lecture at the University of San Diego. During two economics and local politics classes taught by Dr. Jafar Geranssayeh, adjunct professor of economics and former intern in her office, Councilmember Frye discussed how economics affects local politics and culture. The students took the opportunity to ask questions on a variety of subjects including the City's financial situation, the recent wildfires, and the ban on alcohol at our beaches.



### November 7th

Councilmember Frye joined members of the Kearny Mesa Kiwanis to discuss the state of the city and community issues. The meeting was officially started by Kiwanian of the Day, Monica Marquis, who tested the Kiwanis' general knowledge by asking some trivia questions.

Kiwanis, through guidance and example, work to develop future generations of leaders. Become a Kiwani Club member today and make a world of difference!



**November 29th** - Thanks to the City's Environmental Services Department and SDG&E, you can worry less about energy costs and safety hazards. Councilmember Frye visited the two groups at a recent bulb exchange at the City Administration Building.





## FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



### December 4th

*The oldest and largest clogging club in San Diego, the Raylin Cloggers offer ongoing instruction in clogging along with family fun and open dancing. Clogging is an American form of recreational dancing, similar to tap dancing, that the whole family can enjoy.*

*Raylin Cloggers dance in tap shoes, not traditional wooden clogs, and offer family fun and entertainment.*

*Councilmembers Frye and Atkins presented the group with a city-wide proclamation to highlight their family fun events.*



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**December 6th** - Following requests from community members concerned with safety at the Linda Vista Rd and Morena Blvd intersection, the City installed a much-needed traffic light. Thanks to Councilmember Frye's and community member's efforts, and funding approved by the North Bay Redevelopment Project Area Committee, this intersection is now much safer for motorists.





## Doing Our Part...

As the city, state and country move forward in developing and implementing sustainable programs, we can do our part in bettering the world by recycling electronics and green waste, and properly disposing of household hazardous waste. Throughout the year, we've announced numerous events held by public and private entities to help in this effort. Below you'll find three upcoming recycling events. Make sure to check in each month for events and tips to help you live a sustainable lifestyle.

### SeaWorld San Diego Electronic Recycling Event Saturday, Jan. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon

Proceeds benefit the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund

**WHO:** This event is open to all California residents (\*must show proof of California residency)

**WHAT:** A county-wide electronic recycling event. Acceptable electronics for recycling include computers, TVs, VCRs, PDAs, cell phones, fax machines, copiers, mp3 players, monitors, stereo systems, calculators, speakers, telephones, laptops, plasma screens, LCD screens, keyboards, CRT screens, microwaves and more.

***Please note, the following materials ARE NOT accepted:** mercury, car batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, washers/dryers, refrigerators, other large home appliances, or any other household hazardous waste*

**WHERE:** SeaWorld's east parking lot (access via SeaWorld Drive)

**WHY:** Everyone benefits from recycling by helping to protect the environment. A non-profit foundation, the Conservation Fund grants monies to organizations around the world to preserve endangered wildlife, and support conservation and research efforts for ill, orphaned, injured or stranded animals. Since 2003, the Conservation Fund has granted more than \$3.5 million to more than 275 projects in 60 countries.



Best of all, participants will receive a coupon for \$10 off general admission to Sea World until May 5, 2008 (good for up to 6 people). One coupon per vehicle.

For more information visit [www.seaworld.com](http://www.seaworld.com).

### Environmental Services Department Christmas Tree Recycling Program

The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department began hosting the **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program** on December 26, 2007. The event will run through January 23, 2008. This year's program will offer 16 drop-off locations available to City residents only, as well as curbside pickup for those customers with curbside yard waste collection.

Residents participating in the Christmas Tree Recycling Program should drop off trees during daylight hours. (Please do not illegally dump any other items at the drop-off locations.) Residents who currently receive curbside yard waste recycling collection can also recycle trees through the curbside collection program by placing trees at the curb with the regular yard waste recycling. Before recycling trees at the drop-off locations or curbside, all tree stands, lights, ornaments and other decorations must be removed. In addition to clean trees, flocked trees (fake snow) are also accepted.



All trees will be recycled into high quality mulch and compost, which is available throughout the year to city residents, for free if self-loaded, at the Miramar Greenery.

The following sites are included in this year's drop-off locations.

Sites	Addresses
Miramar:	Miramar Landfill and Greenery, Convo Street north of Highway 52.
Mission Bay:	Sea World Drive at Pacific Highway.
Ocean Beach:	Robb Athletic Field Recreation Center, 2525 Bacon Street.

Additional information about the residential drop-off site locations is available by calling Environmental Services Department Customer Service at 858-694-7000. For information on mulch and compost produced at the Miramar Greenery, call the Miramar Landfill at 858-492-6100.

### Dispose of Used Motor Oil At City of San Diego Auto Product Recycling Event January 26, 2008 at Mission Bay South Shores

Home mechanics can bring used auto products, including used motor oil, antifreeze, oil filters and auto batteries, for disposal and recycling to the City's Auto Product Recycling Event on Saturday, January 26, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mission Bay South Shores, Sea World Dr. @ South Shores Park, located in the parking lot east of Sea World, San Diego, CA, 92109. The service is free to City residents (proof of residency required). The maximum transportation limit is 10 gallons and commercial waste is not permitted. Information: (858) 694-7000. The City of San Diego and the California Integrated Waste Management Board sponsor and fund the auto product recycling events.







## Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Animal Regulation	619-236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	619-338-2073
Birth and Death Records	619-237-0502
Brush Abatement	619-533-4444
Building Permits	619-446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	619-233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858-292-6484
City Council Docket Info	619-533-4000
City Directory	619-236-5555
Community Service Center	858-581-4111
<b>Code Violations</b>	<b>619-236-5500</b>
Curb Maintenance	619-527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858-694-7000
Dog Licenses	619-767-2675
Fire Stations	619-533-4300
<b>Graffiti</b>	<b>619-525-8522</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials Hotline</b>	<b>858-694-7000</b>
Housing Commission	619-231-9400
Humane Society	619-299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858-573-1390
Clairemont	858-581-9935
Linda Vista	858-573-1399
North Clairemont	858-581-9931
Serra Mesa	858-573-1396
Noise Regulation	619-236-5500
Office of Small Business	619-685-1390
Park and Recreation	619-525-8219
<b>Parking Citations</b>	<b>619-236-7145</b>
<b>Police: Non-Emergency</b>	<b>619-531-2000</b>
<b>Pot Hole Hotline</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
Recreation Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858-573-1387
Linda Vista	858-573-1392
North Clairemont	858-581-9926
Serra Mesa	858-573-1408
South Clairemont	858-581-9924
Tecolote	858-581-9930
Recycling Hotline	858-694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	619-236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858-565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	619-515-3525
<b>Sidewalk Maintenance</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
<b>Stormwater Pollution Hotline</b>	<b>619-235-1000</b>
Street Lights	619-527-7500
Street Sweeping	619-527-7500
Traffic Control	619-533-3126
<b>Tree Maintenance</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
Waste Reduction & Disposal	858-492-5010
<b>Water Emergency</b>	<b>619-515-3525</b>
<b>Water Utilities</b>	<b>619-515-3500</b>
Zoning Regulation Info	619-236-5555

## District Six Community Meetings

### Balboa Avenue Citizens Advisory Committee

Place: Clairemont Community Service Center  
4731 Clairemont Drive  
When: 4th Wednesday/Month  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

### Clairemont Town Council

Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria  
4150 Ute Drive  
When: 1st Thursday/Month  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

### Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee

Place: Clairemont Senior Friendship Center  
4425 Bannock Ave.  
When: 3rd Tuesday/Month  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### Kearny Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 3rd Wednesday/Month  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

### Linda Vista Civic Association

Place: Baha'i Center  
6545 Alcala Knolls Drive  
When: 3rd Thursday/Month  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### Linda Vista Community Planning Group

Place: Linda Vista Library  
2160 Ulric Street  
When: 4th Monday/Month  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

### Mission Bay Park Committee

Place: Rotating Venue  
When: 1st Tuesday/Month  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

### Mission Valley Community Council

Place: Mission Valley Library  
2123 Fenton Parkway  
When: 3rd Wednesday/Odd Months  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

### Mission Valley Unified Planning Committee

Place: Mission Valley Library  
2123 Fenton Parkway  
When: 1st Wednesday/Month  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

### Serra Mesa Community Council

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 4th Wednesday/Month  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

### Serra Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 3rd Thursday/Month  
Time: 7:00 p.m.





Councilmember Donna Frye  
City Administration Building  
202 C Street, MS 10A  
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FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



The District Six Staff:

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<i>Lee Chiles Mayes</i>	Executive Assistant/Scheduler
<i>Keith Corry</i>	Council Representative
<i>Lisa Gonzalez</i>	Senior Policy Analyst/ Council Representative
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[www.sandiego.gov/cd6](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd6)

Register to receive updates & event information  
from Councilmember Frye by signing up in the  
"Frye Lights" box at [www.sandiego.gov/cd6](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd6)!